

Fiscal Note

Fiscal Services Division



SF 2128 – Autism Health Insurance Coverage (LSB 5713XS)
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Fiscal Note Version – New

Description

Senate File 2128 requires certain group health insurance policies, contracts, or plans for public employees to provide coverage for screening, diagnosis, and treatment of autism spectrum disorders for individuals less than 26 years old. The maximum annual benefit is \$36,000 per year with adjustments for inflation beginning in FY 2014. The Commissioner of Insurance is to adopt administrative rules for this coverage.

Assumptions

- The requirement for group health insurance coverage related to autism applies to State employees, school district employees, and employees of institutions supported by public funds.
- A “member” covered by a health care plan refers to the employee, a spouse, a child, or other dependent receiving coverage by the health care plan.
- The State of Iowa employee group for insurance coverage means Executive Branch, Judicial Branch, and Legislative Branch employees. The only Regents employees that are included are those eligible for union membership.
- Health insurance costs are paid from all funding sources and include the State General Fund, other funds, and federal funds. There is insufficient information to distribute costs by funding source.
- Member costs calculated by Wellmark Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Iowa for the State of Iowa employee group are similar to the costs that would occur under other plans.

Fiscal Impact

The per member cost for insurance coverage of autism spectrum disorders required by SF 2128 is estimated to be \$0.35 to \$0.49 per month or \$4.20 to \$5.88 per year.

The current coverage of autism spectrum disorders for the State of Iowa employee group costs approximately \$280,000 per year. The coverage expansion in SF 2128 will increase costs for the group by \$70,000 to \$210,000 per year bringing the total annual cost to State agencies to \$350,000 to \$490,000. It is not possible to estimate the fiscal impact by funding source, so the cost increase will be paid by all funding sources for State agency operations. Likewise, this cost range does not include school districts or other public employees not in the State of Iowa employee insurance group.

This Bill will increase school districts insurance costs, but that cost cannot be determined.

Sources

Insurance Division, Department of Commerce
Department of Administrative Services
Wellmark Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Iowa

/s/ Holly M. Lyons

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The fiscal note for this bill was prepared pursuant to [Joint Rule 17](#) and the correctional and minority impact statements were prepared pursuant to Iowa Code [section 2.56](#). Data used in developing this fiscal note is available from the Fiscal Services Division of the Legislative Services Agency upon request.
